

### Typical Programs to Eliminate Service Defects

Many communities are developing programs to eliminate private service infiltration and inflow defects.

Programs include:

- Locating the defects by inspection
- Educating the public
- Using ordinances to remove illegal connections and enforcing needed repairs.

In the next few days, inspection crews will be conducting a physical survey of a portion of the sanitary sewer system. This study will involve the opening and inspection of manholes in the streets and easements. An important element of the survey will be "SMOKE TESTING" of the sewer lines to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps. If this occurs, you should consult your licensed plumber. In any event, if the harmless smoke can enter through faulty plumbing, the potential exists for dangerous sewer gases to enter your home.

If you have any seldom used drains, please pour water in the drain to fill the trap, which will prevent smoke from entering the building. It is also recommended that the central air conditioning condensation trap be filled. This can be accomplished by running the unit several hours prior to smoke testing.

Photographs will be made of the leaks occurring in the system. We anticipate the smoke testing will require a few hours in your area. Your cooperation will be appreciated. The information gained from this study will be used to improve your sewer services.

**\*Please note:** Smoke, dye and TV inspection activities should not interrupt your sewer service. Any defects noted or found on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. The property owner will be required to make necessary repairs to maintain compliance with federal, state and local laws. The Water Pollution Control Department will be responsible for enforcement of this ordinance and will be on site to issue Notices of Violation.

The City of Lafayette Ordinance Title 6, Chapter 6.02, Section 6.02.090 Connection of Downspouts and Drains.

#### Connection of Downspouts and Drains

No person shall make a connection of roof downspouts, footing drains, areaway drains, or other sources of surface runoff and groundwater to a building or house lateral sewer or building of house drain which is in turn connected directly or indirectly to the sewerage system. (Ord. 85-21, 5-28-85) Penalty, see §6.02.100.

**For more information, please contact the  
Water Pollution Control Department  
at (765) 807-1800**

Start Date/Time:

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End Date/Time:

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Rain Date/Time:

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## Sanitary Sewer Inspection Program

**Smoke, Dye,  
and  
Television**

**Water Pollution  
Control Department**

**(765) 807-1800**

**Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, constrain economic growth, and result in long-term environmental damage. These problems can be prevented by finding and fixing sewer defects on private property.**

## Sanitary Sewer Systems

Construction of sanitary sewer systems in the United States began in the mid 1800's. Sanitary sewers are built to carry domestic wastewater away from private properties. In more recent years, with the deterioration of systems and inadequate transport ability due to growth, systems have begun experiencing separate **sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's)** both on public and private property.

Sanitary sewer overflows are generally caused by:

- Infiltration and inflow; (I/I)
- Inadequate pipe sizes; or
- Maintenance problems.

Infiltration occurs when ground water enters the sanitary sewer system through defects in the system. Inflow occurs when storm water/rainwater enters the sanitary sewer system through defects and illegal connections in the system.

The inability of the system to transport these flows will result in:

- Insufficient service to customers, thus complaints;
- Sewer backups into buildings; and
- Sanitary sewers overflowing into waterways.

Sewer overflows, whether into private residences and buildings, into parks and streets, or into waterways are potential health hazards and violations of the Clean Water Act. If owners and communities continue to ignore the deterioration of the sanitary sewer system,

the system will continue to deteriorate and the cost of repair will increase. Ignoring the sewer system may force constraints on economic development and cause long-term damage to the environment.

## How a Sewer System Works

Most sanitary sewer systems are constructed as a network of manholes and pipes that flow from each building that generates sewage to a wastewater treatment plant. Private services are pipes from the building to the sewer main.

Defects on private services include:

- Missing cleanout caps;
- Broken cleanouts and cleanout caps;
- Broken service lines;
- Sump pump flows; and
- Storm water flow from rain gutters, area drains, basement drains, stairwell and window well drains.

## Connections Not Allowed to the Sanitary Sewer System:

- Rain Gutters
- French Drains

## Ways To Look For Defects in the Sanitary Sewer Lines:

- Smoke testing
- Dyed water testing
- Internal television inspection

## Eliminating Service Defects

Eliminating service infiltration and inflow defects can be as simple as replacing a cleanout cap. Other defect repairs may require an entire service lateral to be replaced and may require hiring a licensed plumber.

